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WEEKLY BULLETIN

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DETROIT, MICHIGAN, NOVEMBER 2, 1943

No. 43

POST-WAR PLANS DISCUSSED BY PRODUCERS' TECHNICAL CHAIRMAN

Architects, engineers, material men, contractors, and all allied branches of the construction industry should organize their own local committees, Boards of Commerce and other organizations for post-war planning and join their efforts with other local business and industry groups to insure full employment after the war, George J. Haas, Director of Market Development, Stran-Steel Division of the Great Lakes Steel Corporation, long-time member of The American Institute of Architects, past president of the Michigan Committee of The Producers' Council, Postwar Committee, told and open meeting of producers, contractors, engineers and architects, sponsored by the Philadelphia Chapter of the Council, and of the American Institute of Architects, in Philadelphia, on October 25,

In discussing the Council's Postwar Platform scheduled for adoption at the Council's Semi-Annual Meeting in New York, November 10th and 11th, Mr. Haas said—"The broad objective of the Council's Postwar program is the development in cooperation with other branches of the construction industry and major allied groups of plans and policies to insure that construction will perform its proper functions in support of a full post-war economy and contribute the largest possible share toward full employment and general economic and social stability.



Haas

"The Producers' Council, as a cross-sectional organization of manufacturers of all kinds of building materials and equipment, has assumed the responsibility in such post-war preparations for the manufacturing interests. It is proceeding with specific studies which will be of benefit to the interests in the industry as well as to producers.

Voicing a demand that antiquated building codes be generally revised and uniformly revised throughout the country as a vital step toward better post war housing, Mr. Haas reported to Philadelphia members the results of a recent meeting in Chicago of the Councils' Subcommittee on Building Codes.

Pending general revisions of building codes, Mr. Haas urged immediate changes in items or sections of building codes as will permit the use of new proven technological developments, particularly developments during the war, and encouraged the empowering of building officials to accept such new technological developments, products and construction technics.

Mr. Haas urged building material and equipment manu-

facturers to adopt American Standards Association's Project A-62 for the coordination of dimensions of building material and equipment and said that through this project the building industry was on the eve of accomplishing one of the most progressive steps in the entire industry.

He expressed deep concern and warned against the fantastic prophesies appearing in newspapers, magazine and radio presentations regarding miracle houses, methods of construction and materials promised for the day after Victory. He said that reliance on such prophesies and promises should not be permitted to retard the initiation of needed housing and other building and asserted that builders and manufacturers would provide for that time the tested and proved materials required, but he said product development would come as a proper evolutionary process.

He also discussed the studies being made by the Technical Committee on the subjects of:

"Coordination of private and public facilities for testing materials."

"Comprehensive and Practical City and Regional Planning."

He explained that much research and study was being done by the industry and that The Council's postwar committees on Marketing, Industry and Consumer Relations, Finance, Government Relations, Employment and Technical would report in full their progress to the Council's Semi-Annual Meeting in New York next month.

Explaining that The Council did not propose to duplicate the work of the many organizations now dealing with city planning and urban problems, he said the Council Committee would expect to keep in touch with developments, its principle interest being to recommend as a part of the postwar program how the construction industry could be assured that planning of physical facilities would be comprehensive, continuous and sufficiently in advance so that essential public construction could be undertaken, if necessary, as a means of providing employment during the conversion period of industry at the end of the war.

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NOVEMBER 3 - 4

Merle Oberon - Brian Aherne
"FIRST COMES COURAGE"

FRIDAY - SATURDAY

NOVEMBER 5 - 6

Susan Peters - Pierre Aumont
"ASSIGNMENT IN BRITANNY"

Sat. 11 P. M. Jinx Falkenberg "She Has What It Takes"

SUN. - MON. - TUES.

NOVEMBER 7 - 8 - 9

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LANGIUS REPORTS STATE BUILDINGS UNSAFE

Fire hazards which the State would not tolerate in privately-owned structures exist in 33 of 36 State buildings or institutions, according to a 68-page report presented to the Michigan Planning Commission.

Adrian N. Langius, A.I.A., director of the Buildings and Construction Division of the State Administrative Board, declared that studies by his department and the State fire marshal indicated that only the Northern Michigan Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Gaylord, the State Police Barracks at East Lansing and the Michigan Children's Institute at Ann Arbor could be considered safe.

While admitting the virtual impossibility of remodeling dangerous structures and providing adequate fire fighting equipment until the war's end released essential materials, Langius urged the early expenditures of \$3,486,900 to remove the more evident hazards, and the eventual spending of \$11,420,000 more to comply with the State's building code and fire prevention standards.

Langius and Arnold Renner, fire marshal, who appeared before the planning body, Thursday, seemed anxious to place the report on record in order to disclaim responsibility for a possible catastrophe.

Even the Capitol, which is of fire resistant construction, was termed a fire trap in which many lives might be sacrificed unless steps were taken to counteract the effects of the flues formed by the rotunda and stairwells. It was recommended that \$20,000 be spent immediately to enclose the stairs and that \$10,000 be expended eventually for screens in corridors near the rotunda to divert the spread of smoke and gas.

Even the relatively new State Office Building, with its single open stairwell and basement and mezzanine floors filled with combustible material unprotected by a sprinkler system, demanded an immediate expenditure of \$61,000, the report declared.

The institutions said to contain one or more serious menaces to life, in the event of fire, included six State colleges, the University of Michigan, the schools for the deaf and blind, the Department of Health and Michigan State Sanatorium at Howell, all 10 mental hospitals, the Employment Institution for the Blind at Saginaw, the two delinquency schools, three penal institutions, the Soldiers Home, the offices of the Liquor Control Commission, State garage and the two State-operated fair grounds.

The report added that the protective measures for State-owned armories for which the 1941 Legislature appropriated \$350,000 were still uncompleted.

Langius warned against the continued use of the combined auditorium and dining room building at the School for the blind in Lansing. He characterized Clark Hall, boys' dormitory at the School for the Deaf in Flint, erected in 1856, as "a dilapidated, inadequate fire trap dangerously close to other buildings."

Of more than 60 buildings comprising the University of Michigan 25 were condemned as unsafe because of lack of fire alarm systems and properly marked exits, open stairwells, single means of egress from upper floors, absence of standpipes, hose and sprinklers. The heating plant in the school of music, the report said, should be enclosed by firewalls and fire escapes must be provided for the 12 frame



Langius

STATE BOARD TO HOLD ARCHITECT AND ENGINEER EXAMS. IN DECEMBER

A revised examination system is announced by the Michigan State Board of Registration for Architects, Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors. All three examinations will begin December 27, 1943. Applications must be in the hands of the Board by November 15th.

During the past five years, several hundred practitioners of long standing were given legal recognition as "grand-fathers", without a showing of qualifications. This privilege expired December 31, 1942, so from now on, license will be granted only upon satisfactory demonstration of ability—this by written examination. Forty-five states now have licensing laws for these professions and it is the desire of the Michigan Board to keep its registrants on a par with those elsewhere.

The architectural and surveying sessions will be of the same tenure as in the past. The professional engineers' examination is completely revised. In line with the pace set by New York, Washington, D. C., and Ohio, with their statutory "engineers in training", Michigan has adopted a similar, although not as restrictive, examination system. More emphasis will be placed now on determining the applicant's professional ability, but this only after a showing of his knowledge of fundamental engineering principles.

The first of three days will comprise a written examination, covering this latter phase, and is comparable to that given for the "engineers in training". At the discretion of the Board, this may be waived if the applicant's record demonstrates a satisfactory engineering foundation acquired by professional education and experience. The second day will be devoted to professional engineering questions applicable to all classifications; and the third, to problems in the applicant's specialized field.

Present day practice is so diversified that design has become only one phase of engineering. Much of the engineer's service today consists of selection, assembly, and coordination of equipment and structures to constitute a facility adequately and economically satisfying a need of the client. In such fields, a thorough understanding of the performance characteristics and requirements of equipment and structures is required of a professional engineer, although skill, in producing the detail design of much of the equipment and materials, is not necessarily expected of him. Consequently, it is the intent of the Examiners, through means set forth, to effectively judge a man's qualifications toward the end of providing for registration of competent professional engineers, thereby protecting the public as contemplated by the statute.

Applications for registration may be secured at the Board's office—307 Transportation Building, Detroit, Michigan. Telephone: Randolph 8173.

WATTS SHELLY, Executive Secy.

houses serving as hospital nurses' residences. Demolition of 10 of the older structures was recommended.

Worst of the Michigan State College units were said to be the entomology, forestry, botany, psychology and physics buildings with their wood floors and roofs, open wooden stairs and no fire escapes. Cole Hall, a three-story girls' dormitory, it was said, but one stairway, two fire escapes which would not function satisfactorily, no alarm system and no standpipes.

Removal and replacement of all eight dormitory buildings at the Coldwater State Home, four of which are in use, was urged.

Any expenditures for fire-proofing equipment for the men's and women's buildings at the Kalamazoo State Hospital, the report asserted would be in the nature of a makeshift. Demolition was recommended. The school building at the Lapeer Home and Training School was declared obsolete and a serious hazard.

Rehabilitation of buildings at the Pontiac State Hospital would cost \$539,000, it was estimated.

More than \$600,000 would be required to render fire-safe the hospital, seven cottages and bakery at the Girls' Training School at Adrian, the report said.

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PLANNING FOR PEACE TIME CONSTRUCTION

By Joseph P. Jogerst, A.I.A.

Today, while in the doldrums of a war period and not after an armistice is signed, is the time to start planning for the impact of peace. Every architect and construction minded man in the Detroit Metropolitan area, or throughout the state for that matter, should have his eyes focused on the future when present economic planning will no longer be adequate, and when post war improvements will be inevitable.



Jogerst

Far sighted business leaders throughout the country are planning today their post war projects to facilitate the time when these projects will or should become a reality at the war's end. If we, in the Detroit area, are going to wait until hostilities are over to make our plans, we will be left behind and lose out on the leadership we have gained. The initial step would seem to be up to the architects, the construction industry heads, and the various civic and business associations to publicize this highly important activity now.

To some extent we are working with imponderables in tackling post war planning, it is true, with many variables and assumptions where we would wish for certainties. We don't know just when the war will end, what sort of governmental direction we may have afterwards, what encouragement may be given private business, or how long the tapering off process of producing for war will go on. We can, however, make intelligent and conservative estimates in the midst of these uncertainties, we can visualize to some extent, we know now that there must be improvements made in our dynamic city of Detroit; traffic control, subway or overhead lanes, street widening, bottleneck and railroad crossing eliminations—to mention a few. If we take cognizance of these and make post war plans now for a better metropolitan district and state, it will be much easier for us all to meet successfully the impact of a peace time economy.

BOSTON ARCHITECTS STUDY CITY PLANNING

The Boston Architectural Club is conducting a series of seminar lecture courses this fall and winter on postwar city planning, economics, materials, design and management, with some of the best known authorities in the community serving as lecturers and instructors.

The courses are designed to appeal particularly to older members of the building trade, architects, engineers, contractors, the labor group and the producer. A nominal registration fee will be charged for each course.

In this effort the Club has the cooperation of the Boston Society of Architects and the Massachusetts State Association of Architects.

Speakers on city planning will include Arthur C. Comey, Miss Elisabeth M. Herlihy, Frank H. Malley, Samuel M. Ellsworth, Henry V. Hubbard and Prof. Frederick J. Adams.

Seminars on postwar economic problems and adjustments will be given by Prof. Sumner H. Slichter of Harvard University. A specially qualified leader also will direct seminars on trends in construction materials and methods.

Starting Jan. 13, lectures on large scale building operations will be given. The lecturers will include William Roger Greeley, architect; Frederick H. Fay, engineer; Morton C. Tuttle, construction engineer; William H. Nye, Turner Construction Co.; Sumner K. Wiley, federal public housing authority for New England, and Richmond H. Shreve, past president of the American Institute of Architects.

Six seminars on the trend of design will start Feb. 24. The lecturers will include Charles D. Maginnis, architect; Royal Barry Wills, architect; Fletcher Steele, landscape architect; Nancy V. McClelland, president, American Institute of Decorators; Joseph Hudnut, dean, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University, and Ralph Walker, architect.

PRODUCERS COUNCIL TO SHOW COLOR, SOUND PICTURES

Next Producers' Council luncheon scheduled for Monday, Nov. 8, at 12:00 M., in the main dining room of the Engineering Society of Detroit, will be followed by a meeting in a private room on the second floor. The luncheon is for members only but architects are invited to attend the meeting, for which an instructive and entertaining program has been arranged.

The Johns-Manville color, sound motion picture, "Mr. Craig has the Floor" will be shown with Sam Knowlton at the controls; also as a companion picture, "Letter from Libia", showing in action the British Eighth Army in Africa.

As a measure of cooperation, as well for your own enlightenment and enjoyment, we suggest that architects attend the program part of the meeting, starting at 1:00 p. m. You will not be kept later than 2 o'clock.

DETROIT LIBRARY EVENTS, NOV. 1-6

November 1, 8:15 p. m. *Leonardo da Vinci* will be the subject of an illustrated lecture to be given by Francis W. Robinson of the Art Institute staff in the auditorium of the Main Library.

November 2, 8:15 p. m. Film Forum. Rev. Francis B. Creamer of Christ Church, Grosse Pointe, will conduct the discussion centering around the film "One Day in Soviet Russia."

November 2, 10:15 p. m. Radio Station WJBK. Miss Marietta Quinn of the Detroit Public Library staff will speak on "Books and the War," news and reviews of recent books.

November 4, 8:00 p. m. *Detroit's Transportation and Airports* will be the subject of the panel discussion led by Milton Selander, Vice-President of the Detroit City Plan Commission. The other members of the panel will be Allen Brett, Consulting Engineer; Lloyd B. Reid, Traffic Engineer for Detroit; Donald Slutz, Managing Director, Traffic Safety Association of Detroit; and Arthur A. Locke of Wayne University.

November 5, 8:15 p. m. Irvin E. Deer, field representative of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, Inc., will speak on *How Motion Pictures Are Made*.

SAARINEN SPEAKS IN NEW YORK

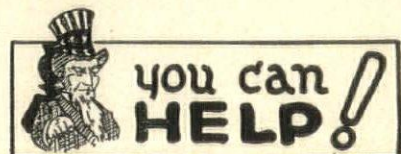
Eliel Saarinen, Director of the School of Architecture and President of the Cranbrook Academy of Art, at Bloomfield Hills, Michigan was guest speaker at a meeting of the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects on the evening of Oct. 14, at the invitation of the President, Mr. Robert B. O'Connor.

Mr. Saarinen discussed the principles of city planning as outlined in his recent book, "The City," and the application of these principles in the planning of the Detroit Area or "The Detroit Sphere of Influence," as outlined at Cranbrook by J. Davidson Stephen.

Mr. Stephen, whose work in the Detroit area was on exhibit at the Architectural League of New York from October 11th to 25th, is a member of the New York chapter of the American Institute of Architects and holder of a fellowship in civic design at Cranbrook. He outlined the procedure developed for the planning of the Detroit Area.

Leading architects from all over the country inspected this exhibit of Detroit planning which has established acceptable methods of city design and is rapidly gaining nationwide recognition under the guidance of Mr. Saarinen.

BORN: October 23, 1943, to Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Fauquier, a son, Brent. The score is now five boys and two girls. The latest arrives as the eldest, Richard, enters the Air Corps.



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Volume 17

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, NOVEMBER 9, 1943

No. 44

THE PRESENT STATUS OF UNIFICATION IN MICHIGAN

By Kenneth C. Black, A.I.A., Chairman, Michigan Unification Committee

After a year and a half of discussing various proposals for effecting a unification of the profession in Michigan, the committee finally agreed that the quickest and most logical way to accomplish the result desired was to request the Chapters of the Institute in Michigan abandon their time-honored restrictive membership policy and invite all capable and ethical active members of the Michigan Society of Architects to join the Institute as corporate members. Since the Institute is the only national organization we have, and since unifica-

tion simply means that everybody who wants to belong to anything should belong to the same organization, it naturally follows that every architect should belong to the Institute—even though such a policy results in the Institute becoming a trade association or a union of architects instead of the academy type of organization it has been in the past. The Institute itself has recognized the necessity for a reorientation of the membership policies of its Chapters and at the last two national conventions has adopted resolutions intended to clarify the situation by calling specific attention to the fact that any architect who maintains a decent standard of practice and conduct is eligible, and always has been eligible, for membership in the Institute. And the Institute has urged its Chapters to forget the personal prejudices and professional jealousies which have operated to restrict Chapter membership.

Many Chapters of the Institute have wholeheartedly and realistically agreed to this change in policy and, fortunately for Michigan, both the Detroit and Grand Rapids Chapters are among the most progressive in this respect. The result is that in the past two and a half years the Detroit Chapter has increased its membership from 159 to 225, making it now the



Black

second largest Chapter in the United States. During the same period the Grand Rapids Chapter has increased its membership from 34 to 40 and the membership of the two Chapters combined shows that there are now 265 corporate members of the Institute in Michigan, as compared with 193 when the agitation for unification began.

The committee, having decided that unification through increased corporate membership in the Institute was not only desirable but feasible, set about the job of working out an interrelationship between the Michigan Society and the Chapters of the Institute which would allow each organization to retain its own membership characteristics during the transition period and which would at the same time permit the elimination of overlapping activities whenever the membership of the Chapters became large enough in any area of the State to take over the work of the Division of the Society in that area.

To bridge the gap of this transition period the committee determined upon a policy which would; (1) give each of the two Chapters of the AIA a director on the board of the Society (there was previously no official connection between the Society and the Chapters.); (2) provide for abolition of the Divisions of the Society whenever the AIA membership in the Division reached 80% of the Division's total membership;

See UNIFICATION—Page 5

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UNIFICATION (Continued from Page 1)

(3) provide for an active corporate membership campaign by the Chapters; (4) provide for a single collection of dues; (5) provide for the possible establishment of additional Chapters of the Institute in Michigan, with such new Chapters to have directors on the board of the Society; (6) result finally in the Society being composed of 100% corporate members of the Institute, with its board of directors made up of a director from each Chapter plus three directors and all officers elected from the membership at large. Under this arrangement the Society will be organized exactly as at present except that the directors from Divisions will be replaced gradually by directors from Chapters, and all members of the Society will be corporate members of the Institute. The rapidity with which this change occurs depends entirely upon the results of the continuing membership campaigns of the Chapters.

Having determined upon this procedure, it then became necessary for the committee to work out certain details in order to make the by-laws of the various organizations conform to this policy. The Michigan Society approved the procedure outlined by the committee at its convention in April of this year and adopted the necessary changes in its own by-laws. These by-laws changes were to become effective upon adoption by the Chapters and approval by the Institute of the required changes in Chapter by-laws. The Detroit and Grand Rapids Chapters have now approved the changes in their by-laws; both Chapters have submitted the proposed changes to the Institute; and both Chapters have received the approval of the Institute. Therefore, the new by-laws adopted by the MSA at its convention last April, and the proposed changes in the by-laws of the Detroit and Grand Rapids Chapters are now in full force and effect.

The Detroit Chapter, at its meeting on October 20, elected Joseph W. Leinweber, Chapter Secretary, as its first Director on the board of the Society. It is anticipated that the Grand Rapids Chapter will elect a director at its next meeting.

One more technicality remains to be disposed of. The fiscal year of both Chapters, and of the Institute, is from Jan. 1 to Jan. 1. That of the Society is from March 1 to March 1. Therefore it is necessary for the Society to change its fiscal year to Jan. 1, in order to simplify the collection of dues and in doing this all members of the Society who have paid their dues for the Society's current fiscal year (ending on March 1, 1944) will be given a credit of \$1.00 on the next annual dues which will run from Jan. 1, 1944 to Jan. 1, 1945. President Thornton has called a special meeting of the Society for Nov. 30, for the express purpose of changing the fiscal year of the Society to conform with that of the Chapters and Institute.

On January 1, 1944 the treasurers of the Chapters will send bills for annual dues to all Chapter members. These dues will include dues to the Michigan Society, and the Chapter treasurers will forward MSA dues of Chapter members to the Society treasurer. As soon as Chapter dues are paid the member will receive membership cards in both the Chapter and the Society. The treasurers of such Divisions of the Society as remain in existence after January 1, 1944 will send bills for dues to the non-Institute members of the Division and these Division dues will include the dues to the Michigan Society. The Society treasurer will not send out any bills for dues except to Architects who live outside the state of Michigan, and these individuals are the only ones who will be permitted to join the Society without first joining a Michigan Chapter or a Division of the Society.

In Detroit and Grand Rapids the AIA membership in the local Divisions of the Society is now over 80% and it is therefore anticipated that the Society will act, at the special meeting to abolish the Detroit and Western Michigan Divisions of the Society. The other Divisions will remain in existence, at least temporarily, until a decision is reached regarding the desirability of establishing one or two additional Chapters of the Institute in Michigan.

Because of the impending dissolution of the Detroit and Western Michigan Divisions of the Society, *all non-AIA members of these Divisions, who have been invited, should accept the invitation of the Chapters to join the AIA as corporate members between now and January 1, 1944, because*

after the Divisions are dissolved the architects in these areas who do not belong to the AIA will not be members of any organized group whatever.

In the first part of this article it was pointed out that the Chapters of the Institute have abandoned their past policies and prejudices in the interest of bringing about the democratic and highly integrated type of organization we must have to represent us in the rapidly changing society we are living in today. But the Chapters can't do the job alone. It is equally essential to the success of the unification program that all qualified architects who have remained outside the Institute because of some real or fancied objections to either Institute or Chapter policies or because of some personal dislike for certain Chapter members, should in their turn determine to forgive and forget the past and join with other progressive architects in furthering the interests of all of us.

To all non-Institute members of the Society the unification committee says, "The Institute has affirmed its desire to represent all registered and qualified architects in the United States. The Michigan Chapters have adopted a democratic and realistic membership policy in order to further this desire on the part of the Institute. And the Michigan Society believes that an extension of this liberal policy to other states will result in the Institute becoming as truly representative of the architects of the country as the Michigan Society has been of the architects of Michigan. The Institute, the Chapters, and the Society have, therefore, done all they can to bring the architects of America together into one strong, coherent and effective group. The rest is up to you. If you have received an invitation to join the Institute but have not acted on it—do so at once. **DO IT NOW!**"

MAIN AWARD TO U. OF D. ENGINEER

The Charles T. Main award of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers for the year 1943 has been given to Mitchell C. Kazen, graduate of the College of Engineering of the University of Detroit, for his paper, "Government as Effected by Engineering". The award is \$150 cash prize, an engraved certificate, and all expenses paid for attending the annual meeting of the Society.

This is the principal undergraduate award in Mechanical Engineering in the United States and Canada, and is open to students of engineering in all American and Canadian colleges. Each year the Board of Honors and Awards of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers select a subject with the approval of the Council of the Society, for an essay to be written in competition by students of the colleges. The selection of the winning paper rests with the Committee on Relations with Colleges of the A.S.M.E. and the announcement of the winner is made by the Council of the Society at the annual meeting in New York in December of each year.

This is the third time in six years that a student of the University of Detroit has won this leading undergraduate award of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. Edward M. Connolly of the class of 1938 won the award in that year, on a paper entitled "Economic Limitations in Engineering Design"—John J. Balun won the award in 1941 with a paper on the subject—"The Need and Possibility of Participation by Engineers in Public Affairs."

Mr. Kazen is now an employee of the Ford Motor Company, by whom he has been employed for approximately eleven years. He also holds at the present time, a part-time position as tool designer for the Cook Engineering Company of Detroit. Mr. Kazen came to the University in February of 1938 after having graduated from Northern Night School. He carried on full time employment with the Ford Motor Company throughout his college course and was graduated this year with the degree of Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering.

John Eberson, New York architect, recently appointed head of the theatre division of the Office of Civilian Requirements, recently stated that everything possible would be done to ensure replacement equipment for theatres.

He added, however, that new theatre construction was definitely out for the duration and that replacements would be provided only after military requirements had been taken care of.

ARCHITECT BURNHAM'S SON, IN SERVICE, KILLED

Lieutenant Spencer Otis Burnham, son of Daniel H. Burnham, was killed while on maneuvers near Scottsville, Ky., on September 27, when a car in which he was riding was overturned. He was a grandson of the originator of the Chicago plan, Daniel H. Burnham, architect for the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893. The young officer was in the engineers corps.

* * *

Linemaster Charles Collins, conducting "A Line O' Type or Two" on the editorial page of the *Chicago Daily Tribune*, invites lists of the ten most beautiful buildings in the United States.

Architects, send him your lists!

* * *

J. Robert F. Swanson, A.I.A., is convinced that the average American community, insofar as city planning goes, is less scientifically and economically planned than the average settlement on a South Sea island. In relation to the civic, social, entertainment, economic and other needs of the people, Mr. Swanson believes that oodles of money is not only unnecessarily expended, but much also wasted. He thinks the Fiji Islanders, for example, are smarter than that.

THE WEEK AT THE LIBRARY, NOVEMBER 8-13, 1943

Monday, November 8, 8:15 p. m. Francis W. Robinson, Curator of European Art at the Detroit Institute of Arts, will speak on *Raphael and Michelangelo—a Study in Contrasts*.

Tuesday, November 9, 8:15 p. m. Film Forum. The showing of *Before the Raid* and *Sign for Victory*, films on Norway and France under Hitler, will be followed by general discussion led by the Rev. Tracy M. Pullman of the Church of Our Father.

Tuesday, November 9, 10:15 p. m. Radio Station WJBK. Marietta Quinn, Detroit librarian, will review recent books on the broadcast, *Books and the War*.

Thursday, November 11, 8:00 p. m. Dr. Warren E. Bow, Superintendent of Public Schools will act as chairman of the postwar planning discussion *What Can Detroit's Schools and Libraries Contribute?* Assisting him will be Dr. Paul T. Rankin, Assistant Superintendent of Public Schools; Dr. David Henry, Executive Vice-President of Wayne University; and Ralph A. Ulveling, City Librarian.

A THOUGHT: Henry Ford: "The great trouble is that there are too many people looking for someone to do something for them. The solution of most of our troubles is to be found in everyone doing something for himself." Most of our Institute problems have strong local applications. Why not local planning, local duration and post-war programs for the unemployed, local indigenous architecture, stronger expressions of faith in our local architects—these are the practical means for bringing a lot of conversation down to earth and to a timely and efficient program.—"The One Hundred and Tenth Paragraph," Central Texas Chapter, A.I.A.

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MICHIGAN PLANNING MANUAL

In a 56 page booklet the Michigan Planning Commission, of which R. V. Gay, A.I.A., is Director, principles are set forth for the establishment of planning bodies by local governmental units. Kenneth C. Black, A.I.A., of Lansing, is a member of the Commission.

A most valuable treatise on the subject, the Michigan Planning Manual will find ready reference in many communities now dealing with this important subject.

In a foreword the Honorable Harry F. Kelly, Governor of Michigan states:

The Michigan Planning Commission is charged by law with the gathering of pertinent data relative to postwar problems, coordination of all plans and programs concerned with unemployment, welfare and land-use in their relation to postwar and peacetime programs and to ascertain the adequacy of postwar public works and capital improvement programs proposed by State departments and all political subdivisions within the State. It is the policy of the Commission to encourage the preparation of public works programs which will utilize available manpower during the postwar period and particularly the conversion period to the best advantage by constructing selected public works and improvements.

Encouragement, counsel and assistance upon request are being given to local units of government in the formation of planned programs of public works to achieve these objectives. Planning of these programs to be effective, must be done locally, guided by persons who know intimately the details of the community and the needs of the people.

The commission recognizes from data which have been presented to it that there will be an unemployment problem to be taken care of by governmental agencies until private industry can convert to peacetime production. The State Committee for Economic Development is tackling this job constructively. The State has been divided into regions and local committees are at work and it is hoped that their plans will materialize in such a manner as to minimize the length of the conversion period.

We have prepared this manual for use by local planning officials and groups of citizens interested in community planning. It is not to be considered a textbook on the technique of community planning, but rather a suggested guide to facilitate your planning program and possibly make it more effective.

The State of Michigan has funds established for carrying out the needs for their own facilities and are developing a complete program so that these funds will be distributed for projects throughout the State to meet the needs as far as their limited amount will provide, namely:

- (a) State buildings and ground which include State hospitals, educational buildings, penal institutions, Health Department, Michigan Soldiers' Home, etc.
- (b) State and Federal highways throughout the State
- (c) State parks and recreational development
- (d) Participation in airport program
- (e) Michigan Unemployment Compensation Commission program
- (f) Welfare in the form of direct relief such as old age assistance; aid to dependent children, etc.

It must be realized that the limited resources of the State will meet only a small fraction of the needs of the entire people of the State and that the local governing agencies' programs to meet the needs of their own people will be the program that will of necessity provide the most good to the greatest number of people.

Practically every local agency has a definite need for some public improvement that has been delayed because of the emergency or never constructed because of lack of finance. However, this period of cessation of public improvements has made possible reducing the public debt throughout the State and many public

agencies are now in a position to proceed with necessary improvements.

Public improvements for a postwar program should be based entirely upon the need and the proof of need can be well established when local governing agencies decide to furnish the funds necessary for the improvements. The length of the complete program of need can be based upon the ability to finance, and any form of outside aid can then be used to accelerate the program and will in no manner affect the delaying of the program.

In order to establish the preference of one type of project over another within a single governing agency, it might be well to consider the need for priority based upon 1) employment; 2) health, such as water, sewerage, hospitalization, etc.; 3) education; 4) welfare; 5) recreation, or any other order of priority as the local demand may indicate.

When the emergency is over and decentralization or change in employment takes place, the only projects that will aid in the immediate emergency will be those for which completed plans and specifications and finances are available; hence we urge that immediate steps be taken to provide the finances for the needed projects and proceed with completion of working drawings and specifications in order that immediate work will be available throughout the State.

The Michigan Planning Commission is charged with the responsibility of maintaining an active file of all public works programs of all political subdivisions of the State and by clearing through this agency, duplication of employment programs within an area or severe drain upon the material available to carry out such programs, may be alleviated.

BIRMINGHAM NAMES PLAN COMMISSION

Harry Muehlman a Member

Mayor John E. Martz, of Birmingham, Michigan, has announced the personnel of a new City Plan Commission, including Allan O. McCrea, Charles J. Shain, Mrs. F. H. McKinney, Harry G. Muehlman and A. Fletcher Plant.

Mr. Plant is president of the Austin Company, a construction firm specializing in industrial plants; Mr. Muehlman is an architect practicing in Detroit; Mr. McCrea is in the trust division of the Detroit Trust Company; Mrs. McKinney has devoted herself to many civic interests and Mr. Shain is one of the City's veteran businessmen and a former member of the City Commission.

The new commission will organize itself for duty at an early date and its members will be consulted as to the addition of the two additional members which the City Commission feels the scope of the job warrants. While there is no provision for funds for the commission's work at present, such an item can be included in the 1944-45 City Budget if it is known by that time what expenditures will be incurred. For the present, at least, there is no intention of employing a professional city planning consultant, the Mayor stated.

KAHN AWARD WON BY BLAIR

The first award of the Albert Kahn Scholarship, open to students of Architecture or of Engineering, has been awarded to James H. Blair, Jr., Senior student in Architecture from Gary, Indiana. This scholarship, established in 1941 by gift of the Associated Architects and Engineers, Inc. of Detroit, through Mr. Albert Kahn, provided that emphasis be placed on candidates' records as to interest in the mechanical and electrical equipment of buildings.

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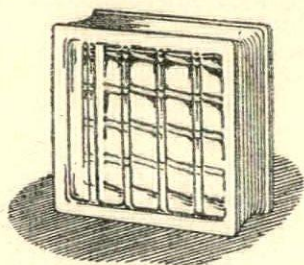
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Volume 17

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, NOVEMBER 16, 1943

No. 45

OBSCURITY NOW—COSTLY REALITIES LATER

What About Post War Home Building?

By Homer W. Harper, A.I.A.

*Mr. Harper is a member of our State and Local Committees
on Public Information—and some good ideas he has!*

When folks become inoculated with the home building urge, they are responding to the promptings of the homing instinct—the instinct that makes birds build nests. A house is a nest folks live in, and the building of it calls for the primitive good in them that has survived throughout the ages. A little savage at times, but mighty good.

This urge makes them eager to learn all they can about home building as quickly as they can. In most cases it's the first and last house they will ever build and comparatively few of them have had the occasion or the opportunity to learn what goes on in the building industry. They need some medium whereby they are enabled to distinguish good ideas and good advice from the bad. Architectural service is that medium.

A home builder should feel free to inquire of an architect how to go about the building of a house—about sketches, blueprints, specifications, the architect's fee, the materials to be used, and all those things. He should never allow himself to become confused by inferiority. An architect knows that architects are as dumb about medicine, dentistry, and law, as doctors, dentists, and lawyers are about architecture. He has learned that it's best to nibble at a thermometer, say ah, or sign here and skip the Latin phrases and twisty terms that befuddle him, if he expects to get his money's worth when dealing with those jugglers of black magic.

But the home builder gets a better break with an architect. He gives out with the plainest English he has at his command and everlastingly seeks understanding. It's his main stock in trade. He must see that the owner understands what he's getting for the money he invests, and that the contractors understand what they have to do to earn the money they are paid. An owner's choice of architect should be based upon the architect's ability to make himself acceptably understood, because the value of architectural service is directly proportioned to the owner's understanding of the use of it and his disposition to have faith in his architect.

A real architect is a registered practitioner the same as a lawyer or a doctor. If a drafting person is chinchy about affixing the title "Architect" after his name and hasn't a seal that embosses imposing indents on his papers, then he's no architect. He's an impostor who lives in fear of the law and the prospect of being boiled in oil by its minions.

Many lumber yards, contractors, and suppliers of patented materials and systems of construction employ draftsmen, whom they advertise as architects, to prepare the "free

plans" home builders are so urgently advised to use. Free plans are sales media. That's their real purpose. They are usually complete enough to form the basis for the sale of a bill of materials or the sewing up of a contract by those who furnish them. This procedure eliminates competition, and the home builder pays and pays and pays. Too often these "free" planners treat the heating, plumbing, electrical, and other items not furnished with the sale or contract, more or less mysteriously, to become annoying misfits and costly realities later. There's no such thing as free plans.

Although residence work is not a profitable enterprise for an architect, it is the most fascinating in architecture. It's a game to see how close he can come to hitting the bull's eye in anticipating what the owner actually wants his completed house to look like and be like. He must know how to study and solve the types of folks he's dealing with.

An industrialist who is a stickler for symmetry, stability, and mechanical perfection needs an architect who can smuggle some rhythm and color into the design of his house. An architect who is successful in this, has a monument to his name that will stand as long as the pyramids.

There are those who have a flair for multiplicity of motif and color—who insist they want this and that and that, too. Such as these are pleased as can be with simplified design that gives dignity to only a few pet motifs and is confined to not more than three harmonious colors.

Some people are "plan blind" and refuse to admit it. They simply can't grasp the meaning of all those lines. And so—the architect takes them for a ride to show them doors, windows, closets, cupboards, how a rug of a certain size fits in a room so big, and so on—and then designs a house that pleases them.

About the most militant feudists to be encountered by an
See HARPER—Page 5

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HARPER (Continued from Page 1)

architect are the man and wife who felt the home building urge years ago, went through all the preliminary stages, designed their house and even chose the materials, equipment, and fixtures right down to the last detail—and it jelled that way. Something prevented them from building then and, throughout the long interim, any new materials or innovations in house design have been just so much foolishness to them. To their minds, any change in their original scheme would be vandalism—worse than arson. But their architect knows that if the house were built exactly as they so tearfully and cussingly insist it should be, they would be among the first to wrinkle their noses at it. So it's up to him. He must contrive to give such folks the house they actually want after it's built. This is especially true in planning now for post war construction. The means he uses—subtle pressure, cajolery, deceit, or maybe fraud—must remain his secret forever. But once satisfied in accordance with this formula, these same feudists become the architect's most partisan boosters.

The most dangerous trap an architect can fall into is to have dealings with a client who is a perpetual yesser. If allowed to continue with this, the house will be nearing completion before he begins to take notice. Then he'll let out a roar. He'll want to know what goes on here and why didn't someone tell him these things—and what a hell of an architect that guy turned out to be. This may appear facetious, but it actually happens. Such a client has an overload of faith and no understanding, and the notion that a lot of yessing must be done to make things run smoothly. It's up to the architect to make him understand and nudge him into the mood to say "NO" good and loud when occasion demands—and he too will be proud of the house he gets.

But, with all their individual traits and twists of character, most home builders go through a certain routine just as birds do when they build their nests. Each kind of bird builds a different kind of nest but they all have a way of fluttering around and tussling with straws and twigs—and there are conflicts with cats and dogs and snakes in the grass and other birds.

After owners have gone through the preliminary stages of looking at lots, rambling through every new house they can find, and gathering bales of pictures and plans, there comes an evening when they go into a huddle around the dining room table and spread out the exhibits. Just then, and by coincidence that appears to have been planned weeks ahead, some neighbors or kinfolks come barging in—full of ideas and advice. This is the advance guard of the sidewalk committee, the kibitzers who suggest and criticize and brew confusion until the home builder moves into the new house and slams the door.

Now the story is out and there suddenly appears out of nowhere a phalanx of enterprising gents with things to sell—synthetic materials that look like what they're not, stuff that's had the BTU's puffed out of it by a secret process, and trick gadgets galore. The contractors come. There are the dumb ones who have a way of appearing crafty and the crafty ones who are crafty enough to appear dumb. They're filled with optimism that's glittering with promises. There are many offers of "free" plans. If the architect is smart, he will have arranged for a request appearance in advance. Otherwise he will remain interned by the ethics of his profession while the home builder is busy exchanging autographs with those who go and get.

Yes. It pays to employ an architect. It's part of his job to steer the home owner clear of tangles that irk, confuse, and cost money. He has nothing to sell but his services, and the only axe he has to grind is that he wants his work to be a credit to him always.

After developing the design that fits the needs, taste, and pocketbook of the owner, the architect passes the blueprints and specifications out to the contractors for competitive bids. There's no chiseling or bid peddling allowed. The contracts are awarded lowest responsible bidders. He then draws up the contract agreements ready for signatures. At this point the architect's service should have paid for itself in dollars and cents.

The architect makes frequent inspections to be sure the materials and workmanship are up to standard. He forestalls that arch bugaboo known as unforeseen extras, which are the costs of errors and misfits, by seeing that the works of all trades harmonize and go together clockwise. If the owner changes his mind and wants to add or omit something, the architect has the contractor and the owner sign a change order that describes the change and states the amount to be added to or deducted from the contract price. The home owner pays no money to a contractor until the architect has checked the contractor's statement with the work done and issued a certificate of payment to the owner, which the contractor signs as a receipt. Each certificate shows the contract price, extras and deductions, amount previously paid, the amount due, and the balance due on the contract. The architect also requires waivers of lien and sworn statements. The owner who is not familiar with the way architects carry on may become addled and ask, "Whose house is this anyhow?" It's being done. But he shouldn't get panicky or bully if he is slow to grasp this procedure at the start. Although it may have a left handed feel, he will soon recognize in it the same sound business principles that must prevail at his store or office or factory—or he wouldn't be building a house!

The architects have no one to blame but themselves for the fact that comparatively few owners employ architects. They have been guilty of dispensing a rare brand of hooey. For centuries they have been selling the public on the idea that they are artists whose art consists of fashioning buildings after the manner of a combination salad—a concoction of acanthus leaves, eggs and darts and arabesques that's seasoned to taste with colorful guilloches and piquant quatrefoils. This doesn't click with the owner. Many of them know they need an architect and want his services, but are afraid to go to him. It's nothing unusual for a home builder to delegate a contractor or some trusted friend to "handle" the architect for him.

The profession of architecture is a business. It's the business of comprehensively assembling and coordinating the works of as many as eighty trades, so they can be stacked up to form a building that's substantial, useful, and attractive—and making it all add up correctly in dollars and cents.

POSTAL GUIDE

The Post Office Department urges the inclusion of postal unit numbers on mail addressed to those in the metropolitan Detroit area. There is no question that everyone wants to cooperate but it is not always easy to determine the zone number of an addressee.

To supply this information the F. A. Chapper Iron Works have prepared an "Official Postal Unit Guide of Detroit, Michigan," as of September 1, 1943.

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NOVEMBER MEETING M.S.A. - A.I.A. ADVANCE NOTICE

Nov. 30, 1943 — Dinner, 7:00 P.M. Promptly
Detroit Chapter Board Meets 3:00 P.M.

M.S.A. Board Meets 4:30 P.M.

NOTE CHANGE: Dinner was previously announced at
6:30 P. M.

This is to be a general meeting of the membership of the State Society, its Detroit Division and the Detroit Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. The M.S.A. will act upon proposed amendments to its by-laws as published in the Weekly Bulletin of Oct. 23, 1943, and explained in Mr. Kenneth-C. Black's article of November 9.

Speaker: Mr. Charles W. Killam, F.A.I.A.,
of Boston, Mass.

Subject: To be announced later.

Keep this date, for an interesting and informative meeting. Through the courtesy of your chapter, you will be served a \$2 dinner for \$1.

WRIGHT SEES LIVING DEMOCRACY

Europe probably will rebuild its bombed cities but it will be a tragic mistake to do so, Frank Lloyd Wright, internationally famous architect, said recently on one of his infrequent visits to Chicago from Taliesin, his personal Utopia in Wisconsin.

Wright, in an Ambassador East interview, spoke lovingly of a dream which he calls Broadacres.

It is the antithesis of all that is evil in modern cities, he explained, adding that "my plans are under way" and that Broadacres would cost around \$50,000,000.

Mr. Wright agreed that "decentralization" probably best describes his dream.

"We're creating it now in the movement of people out of congested cities. Broadacres is really democracy. We must stop talking about democracy and start living it," he said.

"We build great suburbs to avoid the city's evils, and soon the suburbs become as congested and messy as the city. Then we must move farther out to my dream community, Broadacres.

"There we will live in homes much like our present ones, only we will emphasize quality. Then the cities will shrivel and become slums and die. And good riddance."

The S.H.&G. NEWS LETTER continues apace, and newsy and breezy it is, for volume 1 number 3 is even bigger and better than its predecessors. But let us hasten to say that the office of Smith, Hinchman and Grylls, famous Detroit architects and engineers, passes around the editorship among its talented employees, and this is not to say that the first two issues were not well done. Rather let's say that, like the work of the firm itself, the aim is always to make each job better than the one before. That's progress.

The latest episode is edited by John L. Nizinski, who was assisted by Paul Gillet and Helen Burgess. The publication is cosponsored by the firm and the American Designers Association. The latter is a very vigorous and alive organization of the "architects of tomorrow," which should be affiliated with the Detroit Chapter of the A.I.A. In this way we would become better acquainted. Chapter members could render a worthwhile service in guiding the younger men in the right way, while the draftsmen could do much to keep us up to date and abreast with the times. Eventually we would all be members of the one and only national architectural organization.

The American Institute of Architects, may her banner always fly over the ramparts of the fortress known as American Architecture!

Joint Meeting MICHIGAN CHAPTER AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEATING AND VENTILATING ENGINEERS

and
ENGINEERING SOCIETY OF DETROIT

Horace H. Rackham Educational Memorial
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1943

Dinner at 6:30 P.M.

The speaker of the evening will be Mr. Howard Coonley, Director of Fuel Conservation, War Production Board, Washington, D. C. Mr. Coonley will review what has been done to reduce the fuel requirements of the nation by conservation measures.

ARCHITECTS WELCOME

KAPP OUTLINES CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

At the Fifty-Sixth Annual Meeting of the Detroit Chapter of The American Institute of Architects, held on Oct. 2, William Edward Kapp, reelected president, made the following recommendations for Chapter activities during the coming year:

1. Develop an educational program with:
 - (a) Speakers of national importance at joint meetings with other professional bodies or meetings open to the public,
 - (b) Special study groups for subjects related directly to the practice of Architecture, for the benefit of the individual members, as well as the profession as a whole; the subjects to be determined by a questionnaire to the members and the recommendations of the Board,
 - (c) Reading courses as a continuation of school training; the courses to be developed with the advice of leading architectural schools.
2. Participate with activities similar to that of the Civic Design Group, as a civic contribution and a personal gain in architectural education.
3. Assist the National and State Registration Boards in their efforts to better the regulatory actions governing the practice of Architecture.
4. Continue the efforts to induce City; County; State and Federal authorities to award architectural and engineering commissions to private practitioners instead of Governmental agencies, and to encourage the Detroit Engineering Society and similar architectural and engineering organizations to cooperate in this effort.
5. Expand our Post-war planning activities to include not only City and County but State and National programs within and without the profession.
6. Arrange for joint meetings with business groups whose activities are related to Architecture, such as the Real Estate Board; Tax Board; Property Owners Associations; Traffic Groups; Public Service and Utility organizations, etc.
7. Complete unification with the D.S.M.S.A., in accordance with recent amendments to the By-laws.
8. Make personal efforts to improve the standing of the profession and its individual members, with special emphasis on assistance to the younger members of our group and the new members of the Chapter. In the words of Mr. Oberwarth—let us have "a strong, clean organization built on the numerical, political and financial strength of the Institute, to undertake and maintain those services and activities which are of vital importance to the profession itself; and for our own survival and enlightenment. Ours is a powerful mission. The building industry is the largest unit in economic life. We are the inherent leaders of this industry and should be—must be—models of leadership, democracy, tolerance and unity. The Institute should therefore be big—but clean. It should be strong—but honest. Everything else we want, all our hopes, the profession's future, depend on it."

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WEEKLY BULLETIN

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Volume 17

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, NOVEMBER 23, 1943

No. 46

AN ARCHITECT'S VIEW OF THE NATIONAL POSTWAR ECONOMIC PROBLEM

By Arnold A. Weitzman, A.I.A.

"Behold I create a new heaven and a new earth and the former shall not be remembered nor come into mind."—(Isaiah LXV-17.)

This article was intended to follow immediately the one published October 5, entitled "Actually Planning Post War Work?" However, by the editor's advice (or decree), publication of this — critique — has been deferred, in the hope that developments in the meantime would justify a more optimistic tone to be sounded. This hope has not materialized. We do not see any change from mere talk, albeit very rosy orations, promises and prophetic visions, to concrete planning by the nation's Fathers and Scribes in the form of specifically established governmental agencies collaborating on the spot, with active local boards of industry and commerce.

I know that many people upon reading this article, will ask themselves: "What does he want? Isn't there such and such a board, and such and such a committee active?" Yes, indeed there are many, and from the architectural profession very active and excellent ones! But the criticism uttered in the last article, in this issue of October 5, concerning such boards and committees, has even gained more significance by the accelerated pace with which events have been moving since that time. In it the complaint was made that while architects all over the country have joined in sincere and concerted effort and are producing marvelous results, there is as yet no means created for converting this effort into actual use as soon as the necessity for such work arrives after cessation of hostilities in Europe.

It seems that few people realize the enormity of the problem which this nation faces immediately after the command—"Cease Firing"—has been bugled. This problem is infinitely greater than what we faced during the last depression, unless effective measures are taken to solve the question of unemployment. In fact it will be the continuation

of the depression which raged during the thirties and never ended when the war started in Europe. Unless we manage to create a solid peace prosperity the war prosperity will have been a mere interlude caused by the war and which will end with the finish of the war.

This depression, if negligence and complacency on the part of those who are in responsible charge of this nation's welfare allow it to recur, will be deepened by the addition to the ranks of the unemployed of a big segment of our population (17,000,000 women) which have been transformed from housewives into industrial workers. They will continue to be job seekers and no government under democratic processes, can drive them back into the kitchen! This is besides the, according to statistics, *Natural* annual increase in job seekers of about two million during the last four years. On the other hand, technological advancement, with its accompanying more labor-saving devices, has been stepped up enormously, owing to the war production fever. These advanced methods on the field of production, the new economic status into which a large part of our population has entered as a result of the war and an attending new social status, these are

See WEITZMAN—Page 5

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WEITZMAN (Continued from Page 1)

factors that must enter the equation whenever the near economic future of our nation is being appraised.

The New World, about which we hear so much of late, as a future promise, is here. We live in it already. "The former shall not be remembered nor come into mind." Regardless of what statesmen will do or will not do, the old world has passed and the new is not to come after the war, but is here now. It has been born out of circumstances which no one can alter now. However, instead of making it a better world, our inactivity, or activity in the wrong direction may make it into a much worse one than the one which we saw passing. We should now resolutely form economic circumstances so that they are in consonance with this new world. Above all we



Mr. Weitzman

must be serene and not permit ourselves to be carried along by mere slogans and nice phrases into a feeling of "everything will be all right!" Such readjustments as are required now do not just happen by themselves!

We should not fix the nation's hope on "conversion of industry" as an important factor to continue employment after the war. This would at best create a flashlike prosperity. Also in many cases conversion of industry from war to peace production entails a mere reorganization; an expenditure of time only and even a temporary work stoppage; instead of that feverish and work-absorbing activity that people have been taught to think of in connection with "conversion." Also the much-talked-of home building does not form a major source of the employment to come. It may some day be a disappointment to many to find that a lot of the much-talked-of small housing building has been accomplished by the government in the form of war housing. It is hardly thinkable that all war houses, although they are not of substantial construction, will be scrapped after the war.

The surest solution to the problem of continued activity, as far as the building industry is concerned, lies in an extensive and well planned public works program and an expanding utility development program. There are many such projects which are self-liquidating in nature and are very necessary. Under this heading come:

1. Electrification of railroads wherever such a conversion from steam power is technically feasible.
2. Development of waterways.
3. Facilitating credit for home building.
4. Housing projects.

CIVIC IMPROVEMENTS:

1. Development of abundant playgrounds and parks. (The city of Detroit is especially distinguished by the lack of parks and playgrounds.)

2. Resume the program of building schools, community centers, hospitals and other public buildings. Also this program was interrupted by the war.
3. Road over-passes and under-passes. This very urgent work had only a good start when it was entirely stopped. The highways and city arteries are full of life-endangering spots and the number of victims for which these danger points are responsible yearly, is enormous throughout the nation.
4. Resumption of an extensive highway building program.

These projects must be immediately arranged for by the Federal, State and City governments to be put into actual OPERATION as soon as the war is over and material and labor can be diverted. In spite of the war, time and effort must be applied to this task, which is very urgent, for winning and alike for keeping the peace. Mere assertions of what we could do and even promise to do, is not sufficient; may they come even from the highest authorities in the nation. Things will have to be done, and even by methods that will appear to many of us unorthodox. Thus is the verdict of history, of the eternal power that destroys old worlds and builds new ones on the ashes of the old. As we are in a new world, new ways must be adopted and "the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind."

Architects and engineers, who are the creators in the building industry, which, with its ramifications comprises 45% of the country's economic activity must teach, tell and tell again the American people, to make this still a better world, to live in it and for it.

RECOMMENDED READING

The Activities of the R.I.B.A. during War and the Place of the Architect in the Post-War World is the title of an article in the October issue of *The Octagon*, being a paper read by Michael Waterhouse, secretary of the Royal Institute of British Architects at its meeting on June 29, 1943.

William Edward Kapp, president of the Detroit Chapter, American Institute of Architects, says that apparently their problems are so similar to ours here that this report reads like a review of an A.I.A. meeting—Unification, bureaucratic activities, public relations and many other subjects included.

Bulletin:

I am one of those "take it for granted" people who enjoy things, never thinking to thank the people responsible for them until impending doom approaches.

For almost three years I have been really enjoying your bulletin and sharing it with the other Buffalo Chapter members. I attended the Detroit convention and then unfortunately didn't remain out from under the influence long enough to express my appreciation at that time.

Last Friday a bunch of doctors looked me over from stem to stern—inside and out—and detecting no bilge, faulty decking or bulkhead announced (after I had requested the Army)—Bud, you're in the Navy now; and believe it or not, I am. It doesn't pay to argue I found out, and so I am now in the USN—See Bees and leave for Camp on November 5th. I would like to receive your bulletin there (Camp Perry) but believe it would be better if you continued to mail it to my home address from where it will be forwarded to me. I hope you can do it.

As a new Chapter secretary has not yet been appointed, please mail the Chapter copy to James Whitman, President, 232 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, New York.

Keep up the good work.—Geo. Dick Smith, Jr., Buffalo Chapter, A.I.A.

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AGREE EXCEEDS ARCHITECTS' QUOTA IN CHEST DRIVE

At the close of the War Chest Campaign of Metropolitan Detroit, on Nov. 16, The Architects' division, as well as the effort as a whole, had exceeded its quota, it was announced by Charles N. Agree, chairman of The Architects' division.

Talmage C. Hughes served as co-chairman and other architects who volunteered their services and helped to put the drive over include Allan G. Agree, Clair W. Ditchy, Hellen Fassett, Maurice E. Hammond, Richard H. Marr, Louis G. Redstone, Saul Saulson, Paul R. Sewell, Eberle M. Smith, F. Stengel, Alex Linn Trout, Harry C. Vicary and Frank H. Wright.

Final figures are not yet available, but it is of interest to note the figures for the past three years: In 1941 the total budget was \$2,500,000; In 1942, \$5,800,000; and in 1943, \$8,250,000. The Architects budget for 1941 was \$8,000, and in 1942, \$20,000. Our budget for 1943 was substantially increased and final figures will show that we went well over.

BURTON HISTORICAL COLLECTION

The Burton Historical Collection of the Detroit Public Library has recently received an outstanding addition with the gift of Mrs. Robert Stewart of La Jolla, California. It comprises some 484 small pictures and daguerreotypes, 150 books and pamphlets and several hundred letters and documents. Many of the latter date from pre-Revolutionary times. Most of the material is by or about four of Detroit's first families Bethunes, Duffields, Grahams and the problems of leaders of an earlier day as well as the more entertaining personal sidelights.

Isabella Graham Stewart, one of Detroit's illustrious women, is the subject and author of many of the letters. Her grandmother was Isabella Graham of New York, patroness and founder of many charitable institutions which lived long after her death in 1814. Mrs. Stewart although a comparatively young woman when she died in 1888 had already been instrumental in forming numerous charitable and cultural enterprises for Detroit among which the founding of Harper Hospital is best known.

KILLAM TO SPEAK IN DETROIT

Charles W. Killam, F.A.I.A., professor of architecture at Harvard University, will speak on the subject of City Planning and the treatment of blighted areas at a joint meeting of the M.S.A. and A.I.A. at Rackham Memorial building, in Detroit, on the evening of November 30. Dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m., preceded by A.I.A. board meeting at 3:00 p.m. and M.S.A. board meeting at 4:30 p.m. All architects are invited to attend the dinner and lecture, while others interested will be welcome at the lecture only.

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ANN ARBOR CONFERENCE

At the invitation of Wells I. Bennett, Dean of the College of Architecture and Design, University of Michigan, a group of some 25 architects and educators from various parts of the United States met in Ann Arbor on Oct. 16 and 17 to discuss informally the architect's most pressing problems.

The discussions centered on the growing opportunities and responsibilities of architects in the post-war period. Ideas were freely exchanged regarding the ways and means for promoting the effective participation of the architect in these opportunities. Trends and possible changes in the organization of the building industry, and in the business and professional organizations within the industry, were considered in their relation to the professional practice of architecture, and to the continuing education of architects.

The importance of architectural participation in civic and community affairs was emphasized, as well as their part in the planning and replanning of cities in postwar development.

It was generally agreed that the Architect of the future will be a somewhat different product that we must now begin to understand and train. The Beaux Arts approach to practice is a thing of the past and the future Architect must maintain a much closer relation to the actual process of building than ever before. More and more the practice of architecture has become a business as well as a profession and the architect must prove his competency in his ability to grasp and integrate the entire process of planning and building. Competency was discussed at great length and was particularly emphasized.

There seemed to be no doubt but that the Architect would have a very definite and important place in the Post War World but that now is the time for him to be getting ready for his opportunity. He must not wait until the war is over, then it will be too late. The Architect is peculiarly trained and fitted and he must make these more effective than ever through the mediums of

1. Research
2. Publication
3. Exhibitions
4. Education—public
5. Participation in post-war and community planning
6. Public relations between industry and the public

Each of these was given a serious and thorough discussion. The variety and force of ideas expressed was very cheering.

The trends of large prefabrication corporations engaged in creating residences through mass production came in for some discussion. The feeling seemed to be that there would always be some portion of the public that would insist on tailor made jobs. It seems these would still be in that 20% for which Architects now practice (or rather did before the war). The feeling also seemed to be that better ready-made architecture would help to lift the level of quality and competence on the part of the practicing architect, through an improved public taste.

The practicing architects felt the need for further personal training, after graduation. They feel the schools in the main are doing an even better job than the practitioners in keeping up and in looking ahead. They felt that the schools could experiment but practice often prevented or discouraged it because of the availability of materials. Future materials were discussed somewhat and there seemed to be the feeling that there was more discussion about them than actual future production might warrant.

The organization of some of our very large American firms of Architects—Engineers and others was discussed. Many advantages were found in these combination firms but after long debate it was again felt that only local conditions after the war would dictate the soundness of the continuation of such arrangements. Time after time was heard the expression that "the judgment and peculiar temperament of the individual architect" will determine his scope of practice and ability. His idea of organization of his post war firm, its size and the character and size of work attempted will be largely determined by this measure of him. This means that many of

our problems can never be solved by any overall panacea. They must be solved at the local level and by individuals.

Much concern was expressed over the possibilities of government control of future practice, particularly in overall programs to rehabilitate the returned warriors and workers to civilian status. They suggested many local programs of planning and construction in which local architects should be the leading citizens. The Architect must be encouraged to participate more and more in local civic and other community affairs and thus be in a position to be quoted, believed in, respected and ultimately employed because of his superior competence. There are architects and architects and the public has not yet gained the critical faculty sufficiently to be able to distinguish between them.

THE METROPOLITAN ART ASSOCIATION

With the purpose of providing a common meeting ground for the many and varied art groups in Detroit and the surrounding area. To this end the Association offers a program of activities aimed to stimulate and promote interest in the arts of our time.

PROGRAM FOR 1943-44

All events to be held at the Detroit Institute of Arts

DISCUSSION "Michigan Artists Criticize Michigan Art"
Monday Sherman Lee, moderator; Samuel Cash-
November 29 wan, sculptor; Alan Mather, architect; Con-
 8:30 P.M. stance Richardson, painter; Sarkis Sarkisian,
 painter; Zoltan Sepeshy, painter.
 (Meeting in the Michigan Artists Exhibition)

LECTURE "An Artist Redirects his Efforts in War Time"
Tuesday By Beaver Edwards, Detroit sculptor, using
January 11 models and color slides of his work. (In the
 8:30 p.m. small auditorium)

EXHIBITION "Recent Work of Detroit Artists"
Opening A new sales exhibition open to members,
Wednesday sponsored by the Association and selected by a
March 8 jury; to include painting, sculpture, prints,
 8:30 p.m. crafts, and industrial design. Exhibition to be
 circulated after first showing at the Detroit
 Institute of Arts.

LECTURE To be scheduled:
in April An authoritative speaker on a subject of
 general interest to the group. Members will
 be notified of the date, the lecturer and the
 subject.

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Program for members only. Annual dues are \$2.00. For membership card please send check, payable to the Metropolitan Art Association, to Mrs. Marion B. Owen, Secretary, at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

Ward G. Swartz, member of the Detroit Chapter, A.I.A., has been in Mexico during most of 1943. His address is c/o Constructores Generales De Mexico. He requests at least an occasional WB be mailed to him. "Be surprised how much I miss the dam thing."

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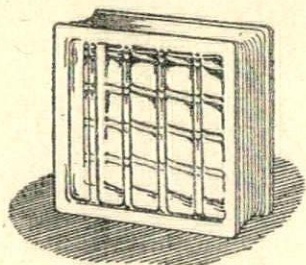
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Volume 17

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, NOVEMBER 30, 1943

No. 47

DINNER MEETING

M. S. A. A. I. A.

Tuesday, November 30, 1943
Dinner, 7:00 P.M. Promptly

Detroit Chapter Board Meets 3:00 P.M.
M. S. A. Board Meets 4:30 P.M.

This is to be a general meeting of the membership of the State Society, its Detroit Division and the Detroit Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. The M.S.A. will act upon proposed amendments to its by-laws as published in the Weekly Bulletin of Oct. 26, 1943, and explained in Mr. Kenneth C. Black's article of November 9.

Speaker:

MR. CHARLES W. KILLAM, F.A.I.A.

Subject:

CITY PLANNING AND THE TREATMENT OF
BLIGHTED AREAS

Through the courtesy of your Chapter, you will be served a \$2.00 dinner for \$1.00. All Architects invited to dinner. Others interested will be welcome at the lecture only—no charge.

Mr. Killam, professor emeritus, of Harvard University, Departments of Architecture, spent 20 years in the office of Peabody & Stearns, Architects. For five years he was a lecturer in the Smith College Graduate School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture. He is a

former chairman of Cambridge Planning Board and Cambridge Housing Authority. His interest and activities have included drafting of building codes, problems of municipal government and latterly post war economic problems of the building industry.

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DOW (Continued from Page 3)

roof, everything that goes into a building will be visible. We are actually going to see the wiring and plumbing. Like structural timbers and carving in an Elizabethan house, everything will be a symbol: a real point of interest. This again means a new thing. It means a method of wiring and plumbing that is pleasing to look at and easy to take care of. Also, it is about time that we started exhibiting the engineer's workmanship. This calls for still another development. It means that building trades could streamline their work, finishing each job in one operation.

Floors are another problem that plastics should solve. We should like to have floors that could be used in the exterior and interior, that would appear in varying degrees of resiliency as well as in a variety of textures and colors. We should like to use this all through a building, having some floors that would be just right for dancing and others so soft that would be comfortable to sit on.

For lawns, we want a plastic sprinkler system that is a complete network of very small pipes lying just under the surface of the grass and filled with holes that will moisten the lawn without producing a spray. We should also like to be able to force insecticides through these pipes, with no worries about their deterioration upon freezing.

We want plastics which can be used extensively in textured surfaces such as draperies. One of the developments along this line will be a material made up of small planes and prisms, locked together with integral fasteners. These individual planes and prisms will be available in a variety of forms, colors and transparencies, to be put together as the home builder pleases. These will give us a movable window covering or screen in a texture ranging from downy softness to crystal brilliance.

New plastic paints could be manufactured that would be not merely surface protectors but would also add new colors and textures to those surfaces. Plastic finishes could be available possessing colors and effects now found only in nature. This glass not yet attained by even the finest pottery would be another quality of that finishing material. Here again is a chance for individual expression. These rich surfaces could be built up at will by even an inexperienced individual. Sculptors and painters, too, would find heretofore undreamed of expression in this new material.

Today, all we can do is dream about these things. But these are dreams that can come true. Some of these ideas may sound fantastic but, after all, one of the reasons the world is in such an upheaval today is that we as individuals had forgotten how to dream. Now, however, the tide is turning. We are once more becoming real individuals, dreaming and working together for a better world in which to live. Plastics are inspiring us to dream again. Plastics will effect largely the realization of these dreams, but realization is not the only goal. Plastics must keep us dreaming.

PRODUCERS' COUNCIL URGES EARLY RESUMPTION OF BUILDING

The American public, national and local government officials, and all branches of the far-flung construction industry must start immediately to prepare for large-scale resumption of building and construction as soon as the war production program begins to slacken, in order to prevent a drastic unemployment crisis in the early postwar period and to remove the threat of a huge Federal work-relief program after the war, according to a postwar platform adopted November 11 by the Producers' Council, national organiza-

tion of manufacturers of building materials and equipment, which concluded a two-day meeting at the Biltmore Hotel in New York City.

Russell G. Creviston, the organization's postwar chairman, who presented the platform containing 22 planks, stated that it would be recommended to all branches of the construction industry for consideration, expressing the hope that the industry would agree on an overall plan for concerted post-war action.

The platform called on the Federal government to remove restrictions on civilian construction as soon as war-time requirements for critical materials and manpower decrease, in order that employment may be provided for the 4,000,000 or more construction workers who will be released by war plants and demobilized from the armed services after the war in Europe ends and the production of war goods is curtailed.

Federal domination of the building industry will be resumed on a greater scale than ever before during the post-war era, unless the industry prepares to meet the construction and housing needs of the American public more adequately than it did before the war, Douglas Whitlock, Council president, said.

"Officials in Washington are laying plans for mammoth public works and public housing programs to begin immediately after the war ends," Whitlock said. "Those and other plans will inevitably be put into effect unless we demonstrate to the public and to its political leaders that private enterprise and local governments can shoulder the construction responsibilities which the Federal government assumed before the war."

"It is not enough to sit back complaining about government interference and demanding that the bureaucrats keep out of the field of private business. We must meet the challenge by coming forward with sound plans for returning the responsibility for construction to private industry, and we must have those plans ready before the political conventions of 1944 when the future course of government policy will be determined."

The bomb-shattered House of Parliament should be rebuilt with its ancient oblong shape, says Prime Minister Winston Churchill, because a semi-circular chamber "appeals to political theorists and enables every group to move around to the center, adopting various shades of pink as the weather changes."

Proposing to Commons that it name a committee to consider plans for rebuilding, Churchill remarked, "We shape our buildings and afterward our buildings shape us."

He suggested the reconstruction use as much of the old foundations and shattered walls as possible.

"I'm a supporter of the party system," Churchill said, "having seen many ardent parliaments destroyed by a group system. The party system is much favored by an oblong chamber. It is easy enough to move through those insensible graduations from left to right but the act of crossing the floor is one which requires serious consideration. Logic is a poor guide compared to custom."

I appreciate very much receiving the Weekly Bulletin of the Michigan Society of Architects and hope that you will continue to keep me on your mailing list.

E. F. Bruggeman, A.I.A.,
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DOW FORSEES WIDER USE OF PLASTICS IN FUTURE HOMES

(Editor's Note: The following is the text of a paper read by the author before the Society of the Plastics Industry, in New York, on November 9.)

By ALDEN B. DOW
Architect

The first man who ran into a cave was undoubtedly looking for shelter. Whether it was a storm or an enemy that caused this retreat, physical protection was all that he needed. However, when he started to carve pictures on the walls of that cave, to move in specially shaped stones on which to work, and to arrange a place for building a fire, he was no longer concerned with mere shelter; he was creating a home.

The purpose of a shelter is to protect us from the elements, to provide basic physical comforts, to fill the animal needs of man. The purpose of a home is to satisfy a fundamental need which goes beyond mere utility. It must provide ways and means for man to grow both physically and mentally. It must provide an outlet for his creative urge. In other words, it must satisfy his selfish interests. That is home.

What Is Home?

Shelter today is far more than a cave. It must have a sewer, hot and cold running water, separate rooms for bathing, sleeping, and cooking, a heating machine, electric lights, telephone, storage space for the car, schools and playgrounds nearby, and paved roads with transportation services. Today, in the U.S.A., these are requirements of mere physical shelter.

A home is still something more. It is the place where the individual's creative instinct has a free rein. Today we are neglecting this instinct. We are trying to pacify it with such things as the radio, moving pictures, travel and higher wages; but as long as man fails to express his own individuality, he remains dissatisfied, unhappy.

He needs something to stimulate his individual inventiveness, to prod his imagination into an active outlet. The new architecture is a manifestation of that mood. It comes not only from architects but from all people who are finding that we cannot live by bread alone. This new architecture does not stop with an attempt to meet physical needs, it also strives to satisfy that needs which distinguishes man from the other animals.

Some think that this development of the individual can be achieved in mass form through organized play and various kinds of clubs. But why are so many families moving out of our organized, regimented forms of housing? Why are they moving into less comfortable and convenient, often more expensive, shelters in rural and suburban areas? It is simply that in his own home the individual wants to reign supreme. Here he finds relaxation from the disciplined side of his life. Here he can develop his own ideas in his own way: ideas that may be the seeds of a new industry.

Where Plastics Enter

You may wonder what all this has to do with plastics and architecture. It is simply this: If a great development is to come in architecture, as well as in plastics, it is going to be concerned basically with new ideas, ideas that will stimulate the growth of the individual.

Architecture in this country until today has been primarily an interpretation of past eras. The new architecture, however, attempts to interpret our own ideals. To do this, architects are developing a new language that puts into the hands of everyone better ways of developing his home. Today they are approaching the plan not from the point of view of exterior appearance or style, but, first of all from the point of view of function. They analyze the use of color, surface and space relationships with the same purpose in view. In other words, we are approaching architecture from the point of view of human needs. We see in architecture a way of greater individualism: A way to better living.

As the first example of this new language, let us consider the function of appearance. The eye sees everything in terms of color. The normal eye sees everything in terms of three colors, red, blue, and green. Continued exposure to one

color weakens the eye's mechanism for recording that particular color. The fatigue or wearing out of any such mechanism tends to upset the equilibrium of the whole human system. This simply means that the eye demands surroundings that have a balanced variety of color. It means that we cannot live in a room in which everything is brown, or green, or blue, or any other one color, without upsetting the equilibrium of our visual mechanism.

Monotony of form has the same reaction upon our visual system as monotony in color. A particular rock in a rock pile is unnoticed. Place that rock in your garden, plant delicate foliage around it, and both will sparkle with importance. One is a relief to the other. One adds interest to the other.

Now, why does a human being, sentenced to solitary confinement, often become insane? It is simply because the lack of either color or form relief in his surroundings wears out the mechanisms recording them. This breaks down the equilibrium of his nervous system which, if continued, results in insanity.

When we start to build a house we first consider physical comfort, but when we start to apply the principle of variety, or human balance, to this house, we then begin the creation of a home.

It is the duty of architects to keep this principle of balance before the builders. It is the duty of industry to furnish the home builder with materials that will make the application of this principle possible.

We do not want buildings, one a replica of the other, rolling from a mass production line across our country. We do not want stock houses that can be traded in on a new model every year or so. We want a flexible material, varied in color and texture, from which the individual may build, as simply as a child with blocks, anything his heart desires, and add to it as the years go by. This may sound like wishful thinking, but it seems to me that the plastic industries have the materials that may meet every requirement for a simpler and more flexible way of building.

Our simple structures in the past consisted of a frame with an outside cover, and an inside lining, protecting an insulating quilt. Architects want one material that will serve all three purposes.

Insulation a Necessity

Today, well insulated walls are an economic necessity, but in construction this insulation presents a complication. It is necessary to protect this insulation and to ventilate the cool side. We want an insulation unit, made up of individual air and moisture tight voids, that provides its own protection. We should like to be able to cut this with simple tools and fasten it to a wood or steel frame and call that our finished wall and roof. We want this unit available in any degree of translucency and in a variety of colors and textures.

It may be possible to build walls and roofs that are translucent, as well as brightly colored, so that buildings would appear at night as lanterns glowing outside from the life within. This, of course, does not mean the end of windows. They serve another function, but here again plastics may be used. Transparent areas may be like roll screens, opened simply by rolling them up. Of these transparent surfaces may be thin tanks filled with some solution that changes color or crystallizes as the temperature varies, producing a wall that is perfectly clear in temperature, say down to 60 degrees, while below that temperature it becomes a beautiful crystal pattern, then goes back into solution when the temperature rises a few degrees. Thus, we may have a wall that simply by its appearance may tell us the outside temperatures. Further, this chemical wall might aid in the heating and cooling of our building. It might also be a method of controlling privacy.

Another real problem in building structure is presented by the contraction and expansion of materials due to moisture and temperature. No matter how we build, this problem is always with us. Plastics seem to have a solution within reach, for elasticity is one of their finest properties. This wall unit must have that kind of flexibility.

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See DOW—Page 5

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